CLAIM SET AS AMENDED

1. (Original) A method of generating an album comprising a composite image in which a plurality of images obtained by a digital camera are arranged in a desired layout, the digital camera comprising image recording means for recording image data sets representing the images in a recording medium with accompanying information regarding the image data sets added thereto, the album generation method comprising the steps of:

reading the image data sets and the accompanying information added thereto from the recording medium; and

generating composite image data representing the composite image based on the accompanying information by inserting the respective images represented by the image data sets in image insertion areas of a template having the image insertion areas corresponding to the accompanying information.

2. (Original) An album generation method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the template is selected based on the accompanying information.

3. (Original) An album generation method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the step of generating the composite image data is the step of generating the composite image data by inserting the accompanying information in the template, in addition to the images.

4. (Original) An album generation method as defined in Claim 2, wherein the step of generating the composite image data is the step of generating the composite image data by inserting the accompanying information in the template, in addition to the images.

5. (Previously Presented) An album generation method as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, the digital camera further comprising:

photographing means for obtaining image data representing a subject by photographing the subject;

storage means for storing recommended composition data sets representing images of recommended composition at various photographing locations by relating photographing information including location information representing the photographing locations to the recommended composition data sets;

photographing information obtaining means for obtaining acquired photographing information;

reading means for reading a desired one of the recommended composition data sets related to the photographing information corresponding to the acquired photographing information from the storage means, based on the acquired photographing information obtained by the photographing information obtaining means; and

display means for displaying a recommended composition image represented by the desired recommended composition data set in superposition on an image represented by the image data obtained by the photographing means, wherein the image recording means is

means for including the acquired photographing information in the accompanying information, for adding the accompanying information to the image data obtained by the photographing means based on the recommended composition, and for recording a plurality of sets of the image data having the accompanying information in the recording medium.

6. (Original) An album generation method as defined in Claim 5, further comprising the step of replacing the image data obtained according to the desired recommended composition data set with prepared image data corresponding to the desired recommended composition data set.

7. (Original) An album generating apparatus for generating an album comprising a composite image in which a plurality of images obtained by a digital camera are arranged in a desired layout, the digital camera comprising image recording means for recording image data sets representing the images and having accompanying information regarding the image data sets in a recording medium, the album generating apparatus comprising:

reading means for reading the image data sets and the accompanying information added thereto from the recording medium; and

composition means for generating composite image data representing the composite image based on the accompanying information by inserting the respective images represented by the image data sets into image insertion areas of a template having the image insertion areas corresponding to the accompanying information.

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8.   (Original) An album generating apparatus as defined in Claim 7, further comprising template selecting means for selecting the template based on the accompanying information.

9.   (Original) An album generating apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein the composition means generates the composite image data by inserting the accompanying information together with the images in the template.

10.   (Original) An album generating apparatus as defined in Claim 8, wherein the composition means generates the composite image data by inserting the accompanying information together with the images in the template.

11.   (Original) An album generating apparatus as defined in any one of Claims 7 to 10, the digital camera further comprising:

photographing means for obtaining image data representing a subject by photographing the subject;

storage means for storing recommended composition data sets representing images of recommended composition at various photographing locations by relating photographing information including location information representing the photographing locations to the recommended composition data sets;

photographing information obtaining means for obtaining acquired photographing

information;

reading means for reading a desired one of the recommended composition data sets

related to the photographing information corresponding to the acquired photographing

information from the storage means, based on the acquired photographing information

obtained by the photographing information obtaining means; and

display means for displaying a recommended composition image represented by the

desired recommended composition data set in superposition on an image represented by the

image data obtained by the photographing means, wherein the image recording is being

means for including the acquired photographing information in the accompanying

information, for adding the accompanying information to the image data obtained by the

photographing means based on the recommended composition, and for recording a plurality

of sets of the image data having the accompanying information in the recording medium.

12. (Original) An album generating apparatus as defined in Claim 11, wherein the

composition means enables replacement of the image data obtained according to the desired

recommended composition data set with prepared image data corresponding to the desired

recommended composition data set.

13. (Original) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a

computer to execute an album generation method for generating an album comprising a

composite image in which a plurality of images obtained by a digital camera are arranged in

a desired layout, the digital camera comprising image recording means for recording image

data sets representing the images and having accompanying information regarding the image

data sets in a recording medium, the program comprising the procedures of:

reading the image data sets and the accompanying information added thereto from the

recording medium; and

generating composite image data representing the composite image based on the

accompanying information by inserting the respective images represented by the image data

sets in image insertion areas of a template having the image insertion areas corresponding to

the accompanying information.

14.   (Original) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 13,

wherein the template is selected based on the accompanying information.

15.   (Original) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 13, the

procedure of generating the composite image data being the procedure of generating the

composite image data by inserting the accompanying information together with the images in

the template.

16.   (Original) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 14, the

procedure of generating the composite image data being the procedure of generating the

composite image data by inserting the accompanying information together with the images in the template.

17. (Original) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in any one of Claims 13 to 16, the digital camera further comprising:

photographing means for obtaining image data representing a subject by photographing the subject;

storage means for storing recommended composition data sets representing images of recommended composition at various photographing locations by relating photographing information including location information representing the photographing locations to the recommended composition data sets;

photographing information obtaining means for obtaining acquired photographing information;

reading means for reading a desired one of the recommended composition data sets related to the photographing information corresponding to the acquired photographing information from the storage means, based on the acquired photographing information obtained by the photographing information obtaining means; and

display means for displaying a recommended composition image represented by the desired recommended composition data set in superposition on an image represented by the image data obtained by the photographing means, wherein the image recording means is means for including the acquired photographing information in the accompanying

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information, for adding the accompanying information to the image data obtained by the

photographing means based on the recommended composition, and for recording a plurality

of sets of the image data having the accompanying information in the recording medium.

18. (Original) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 17, the

program further comprising the procedure of replacing the image data obtained according to

the desired recommended composition data set with prepared image data corresponding to

the desired recommended composition data set.

19. (Previously Presented) An album generation method as defined in Claim 1,

wherein the accompanying information includes information indicating whether or not each

of the image data sets is used for an album.

20. (Previously Presented) An album generating apparatus as defined in Claim 7,

wherein the accompanying information includes information indicating whether or not each

of the image data sets is used for an album.

21. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in

Claim 13, wherein the accompanying information includes information indicating whether or

not each of the image data sets is used for an album.

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22. (Previously Presented) An album generation method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the template is read out from template storage means for storing a plurality of templates, with reference to the information specifying the template, which is recorded on the recording medium.

23. (Previously Presented) An album generating apparatus as defined in Claim 7, wherein the template is read out from template storage means for storing a plurality of templates, with reference to the information specifying the template, which is recorded on the recording medium.

24. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium as defined in Claim 13, wherein the template is read out from template storage means for storing a plurality of templates, with reference to the information specifying the template, which is recorded on the recording medium.